

READERS' FORUM

Selected short letters and abstracts from longer communications from readers are published when they remain within the bounds of decorum and law and contribute anything of value. Hereafter the name and address of the writer will be given. A pen name will be published on the author's request, and letters to the editor not intended for publication should be marked "personal."

San Francisco, February 16, 1926.

DEAR EDITOR:

I noticed the suggestion in the current (February) issue of the Journal that California members attending the American Medical Association session leave on special trains. I think this an excellent idea and would like to be notified if this is carried out.—William E. Stevens.

DEAR DOCTOR:

This was only a suggestion. I suspect that, if given authority, the railroad people would work up the idea.—Editor.

Chicago, January 20, 1926.

"I have just finished looking over the current number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. It seems to me that this journal makes definite improvement each month. In my judgment you are doing a splendid work."—O. W.

TO THE EDITOR:

We wish to thank you for the news item you gave us in the last issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE and assure you we appreciate such helpful service to advertisers. Will you please mail me another copy of the January issue?

NILES HOME FOR THE AGED, J. SHULTS.

Los Angeles, February 17, 1926.

DEAR EDITOR:

Your note relative to my suggestions that the date of the annual meeting be printed on the outside cover is at hand.

I find another memorandum on my desk that I intended to take up with you. It is to the effect that you print on the front cover, perhaps on the bottom of the page, this legend, "For complete index of contents see page —." When one picks up a journal, it is always a distinct convenience to have on the outside cover the reference to the page on which the itemized index can be found.

Along the subject of suggestions, I would call your attention to the back edge of the Journal of the American Medical Association. Some years ago I wrote to George Simmons, suggesting that they print the page numbers of each issue, and this has been done, and it makes for much more ready reference to articles in case one desires to look up a subject. I do not know whether it is so important in a monthly journal like CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, but it might be worthy of consideration at any rate. Cordially yours,

GEORGE H. KRESS.

Note—Both suggestions by Doctor Kress are good ones and will be carried out. Constructive suggestions, calculated to increase the usefulness of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, are always gratefully received.—Editor.

In connection with Dr. John W. Shuman's article about laboratory medicine published in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE some months ago, Dr. William Fletcher, director, Institute for Medical Research at Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States, writes:

"I am particularly interested. Our young men are very prone to think that their responsibility ends when they put a specimen in the post box and that they can sit in a chair and wait for the diagnosis to come by next mail."

An optimist is a man who rejoiced in having a wooden leg because he could hold up his socks with thumb tacks.

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D., *Secretary*

According to the Los Angeles Express of February 3, 1926, Dr. C. L. Ahrens was the object of a complaint issued by the district attorney's office, charging him with ten counts of failure to report contagious diseases to the health department. "In the event he is found guilty, he will face a sentence of six months in jail or a \$500 fine on each one of the counts."

According to the Pasadena Star News of January 20, 1926, R. H. W. Albrexstondare was brought to Pasadena on January 19 from Santa Ana, where he had completed a six months' term in the county jail following his conviction of a violation of the Medical Practice Act. A similar charge has been pending in Pasadena since March, 1924. A clipping relates: "While the authorities especially delved into Doctor Albrexstondare's asserted claims to several wealthy financial backers that he could 'manufacture' a human body, a figure six inches in length . . . the claims of the Pasadena woman were divulged in the records of the Superior Court. . . . In the court record relating to the suit for the recovery of \$13,800 from the 'doctor' it was revealed that Miss McFadden of Pasadena was represented to have been the alleged victim. . . ."

The "Beauty Specialists" were recently reported to have secured a charter from the state permitting a certain beauty parlor to grant degrees following a course of instruction in the beauty parlor. "For masters of beauty technique we (they) would like a degree M. B. C., meaning master of beauty culture, and for the beginner, the degree B. B. C., meaning bachelor of beauty culture." This perchance is a sequel to the beauty culture bill, which created considerable comment during the last legislative session.

The annual report of the Board of Osteopathic Examiners shows that ninety-seven certificates were issued during the year 1925, forty-nine having been issued to practitioners from other states and Missouri led the list. Pleas of guilty for violation of the Medical Practice Act were reported to have been obtained from G. W. McFadden, P. B. Richards, Los Angeles, and W. F. Zahn, San Diego, while the case against E. V. Bergquist of Fresno was dismissed on his agreement to leave the state. (The records of the Board of Medical Examiners show the drugless practitioner application of Edward V. Bergquist, a graduate of the Universal Sanipractic College, Seattle, was denied.) The report also shows that the "certificate of Edwin A. Leatherwood was revoked by the board on a charge of aiding and abetting an unlicensed person." (The transcript of the hearing of Bishop Wilbert LeRoy Cosper, convicted of violation of the Medical Practice Act in the county of Contra Costa, shows the testimony of E. A. Leatherwood as connected with the case.)

According to the St. Louis Star of December 21, 1925, "Dr. Waldo Briggs, dean and owner of the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons, the charter of which the state now is seeking to cancel, today lost in the Circuit Court his fight to retain his license to practice medicine in Missouri. . . ."

According to the Santa Ana Register of January 2, 1926, the annual report of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners shows that "for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, the board issued 894 license certificates. . . . A previous board had granted 252, making a total of 1146. The board announces that in the interests of public welfare, it will probe any chiropractic institutions in the state which appear to be 'diploma mills.' If the courts hold that the Chiropractic Act does not delegate such powers to the board, then it will be necessary in the future to more thoroughly investigate each applicant for licensure. . . ." "News items" in a previous issue drew attention to a recent decision by the Superior Court of San Francisco county, holding that the Chiropractic

Initiative did not give the board authority to investigate schools.

Jose Furtado da Silva of Oakland was recently convicted of practicing medicine without a license by a jury in the Superior Court at Santa Barbara and thereafter paid a fine of \$250.

Recent newspaper reports mention the trial of John C. Dysart in the Federal Court of El Paso, Texas, reported indicted on a charge of using the mails to defraud.

The San Francisco Examiner of August 13, 1925, relates: "In 1914, Doctor Dysart was arrested in Los Angeles on a charge of passing a fictitious check. In 1919 he was convicted of violating the Harrison Narcotic Act, sentenced to five years in the federal prison and pardoned by President Wilson, after serving four months of his sentence."

The Fresno Bee of January 22, 1926, relates that John F. Gebhardt and Frank W. Faircloth, referred to in a report from Special Agent Henderson, also in "News Items" in the February issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, were fined \$600 each and given suspended jail sentences of six months by Superior Judge Charles R. Barnard in Fresno, who also ordered them to return to Mrs. Emily Howard a fee of \$500, which they had charged her for an "eye treatment."

The St. Louis Star of January 29, 1926, relates that Bishop Helmuth P. Holler, recently convicted in Washington, D. C., of conspiracy to use the mails to defraud in connection with the operation of Oriental University, local diploma mill which he headed, was sentenced to two years in prison and fined \$1000. Dr. Robert Adcox and Sam Kaplan, co-defendants, pleaded guilty and are serving terms of forty days each.

According to the Englewood News of January 7, 1926, Dr. Robert Kelso was charged with practicing for about two years in California without registering his certificate, pleaded guilty and was fined \$100. The day previous "the doctor was arrested on complaint that he failed and refused to file the birth certificate of the child of Mr. and Mrs. John Gilbert, for which he was given a suspended sentence."

According to the San Francisco Examiner of January 23, 1926, "Dr. F. K. Lord, Ceres physician, found guilty by a Justice Court jury of administering morphine in excess of the limit allowed by law," had prepared an appeal to the Superior Court. Dr. Fred K. Lord has been cited to appear before the Board of Medical Examiners at the coming March meeting to show cause why his license should not be revoked on a charge of habitual intemperance.

According to the Modesto Herald of January 27, 1926, Dr. L. H. Wolfson pleaded guilty to a charge of violation of the Narcotic Law and was fined \$200 by Justice J. M. Gondring.

"Trial of A. A. Zimmerman of Richmond, accused of violation of the State Chiropractic Act, is scheduled to be held before Justice of the Peace John Roth in Richmond on Thursday. H. A. Miller, special agent for the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, charged Zimmerman practiced without a license. . . ." — San Francisco Chronicle, January 13, 1926.

A recent decision rendered by Attorney-General U. S. Webb holds that chiropractors are not authorized to use electro-therapy, hydro-therapy or electronic methods under the provisions of the Chiropractic Initiative. "The x-ray, stethoscope and neuro-calcometer may be employed but only for diagnoses."

Dr. H. H. Heddens, referred to in prior issues of "News Items," was recently held to answer to the Superior Court of Kern County for trial under \$1500 bail, on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act.

T. How Wing, a Chinese herbalist of Los Angeles, recently paid a fine of \$100 on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act.

Annual Report, Board of Medical Examiners—The secretary, in commenting on the activities of 1925, quotes an article published in the Journal American Medical Association, May 30, 1925, complimenting the Board of Medical Examiners of California for their active and vigorous campaign against pseudo doctors and their disciplining of those licensed to practice in California, who have been guilty of violation of the laws of our state. Reference is made to irregularity in issuing of diplomas by California corporations, and the incorporation of a clause in Section 14 of the Medical Practice Act which permits the Board of Medical Examiners to revoke the licenses of those found guilty after a hearing before the board, of the purchase, sale, altering, or fraudulent use of any diploma, document, etc., in connection with an application for a license to practice in this state. Comment is also made on the national diploma mill developments and the conviction of "Bishop" Helmuth P. Holler by the Federal Court, Washington, D. C., for the misuse of the mails in connection with the activities of his so-called "Oriental University."

Three certificates were restored during the year 1925. Six hundred eighty-four applications of all classes were filed, there being a decrease as compared with the record of 1924, particularly in reciprocity applications. However, graduates of medical colleges in increasing numbers applied for written examination. Six hundred sixteen certificates of all classes were issued, of which 293 were issued to physicians and surgeons after written examination, 264 being issued to physicians presenting qualifications from other states. Analysis of the distribution of applicants for reciprocity demonstrates (as compared with 1924) that Illinois, ranking third in the United States in the total number of physicians licensed, has again sent to California the largest number of successful applicants. New York, which shows the largest registration of physicians in the United States, sent us the second largest group, while Pennsylvania, showing second largest registration of physicians in the United States, sent us but nine during 1925 compared with sixteen during 1924.

Thirty-seven California licentiates left California, successfully obtaining reciprocity licenses in other states.

Written examination statistics show that graduates of California medical schools still maintain a high standing, Stanford University and the University of California showing a perfect score, the latter not having a failure recorded for the past sixteen years. Certificates were issued ten drugless practitioners, ten chiropodists, and seventeen midwives, all after written examination.

Seventeen licentiates were called before the board for hearing on various charges, the largest number for any one charge being ten for narcotic violation. After hearing, six certificates were revoked, six were granted probation, and five are pending final disposition.

The legal report of the north and south shows considerable activity in investigation and prosecution of those who are alleged to prey upon the sick and afflicted. The northern report shows forty-eight cases handled with eleven guilty, and the southern report shows seventy-six cases handled, with forty-four guilty. In commenting thereon, our special agent in the south relates:

"As fast as the crop of violators is harvested, however, others are growing up; there seems to be an endless supply. And the most remarkable thing about it all is the fact that no matter how utterly ridiculous the system practiced by some of these fakers, there are always plenty of patients who are willing to pay enormous prices for their treatments."

Sixteen licentiates recorded a change in their name (the majority by marriage) during the year just passed.

One hundred forty-eight of those licensed to practice in this state died during the past year, and sixty-eight graduates of medical colleges who were not licensed in this state were reported to have died in California during the year just closed.

Requests to purchase additional copies of different issues of California and Western Medicine forces us to make a wholesale price, which will be \$5 for twelve copies, instead of the usual retail price of 50 cents a copy.